

ORIGIN/ACITION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 32 AUS-CZECH

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A-241

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: Amembassy PRAGUE

FROM : Amembassy VIENNA

DATE: Sept 19, 1967

SUBJECT: Austrian-Czech Border Negotiations

REF :

Negotiations between Austria and Czechoslovakia concerning borderline alterations along the River March will open in Prague on November 13, 1967.

Under the Treaty of St. Germain, the borderline falls in the middle of the natural course of the March River. However, flood control measures between 1934 and 1938 altered the river's natural course which continued to be treated as the separator between Austria and Czechoslovakia.

A new survey of the border along the March River has been carried out upon orders of the Austrian Interior Ministry by the Federal Office of Standards and Surveying following the August 1967 March River border incidents.

The disparity between the original course and the altered course of the March River results in 50 hectares or so (120 acres) of what is Austrian territory under the Treaty of St. Germain lying on the Czech side of the altered course of the river, and vice-versa. Negotiations on establishing a new border demarkation, and on the mutual exchange of these 50 hectares were initiated briefly in 1938 but were interrupted by the war.

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Drafted by:

P-JSchollaert:re 9/18/67

Contents and Classification Approved by:

P-R.H. White

Clearances: